

CRS No. A-00003

Address: 239 Bowers Beach Road

Name: Dwelling, 239 Bowers Beach Road

Tax Parcel: 8-00-12216-01-0900-00001

Date of Construction/Major Alterations: ca. 1955

Time Period: 1940-1960±, Suburbanization and Early Ex-urbanization

Geographic Zone: Upper Peninsula

Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture, Engineering, and Decorative Arts (Residential Architecture) and Settlement Patterns and Demographic Changes (Community Development)

Description

This property is located on the northwest side of Bowers Beach Road in South Murderkill Hundred, Kent County, Delaware. The lone structure on the property is a *circa*-1955 Minimal Ranch dwelling. Characteristic of the Minimal Ranch type, the dwelling has a Chicago-style picture window and shallow eaves. The dwelling sits back from Bowers Beach Road and faces slightly to the southeast, parallel to the roadway. Originally, the dwelling was a one-story, three-bay dwelling, capped by a side-gable roof, with a central gabled entrance porch and a one-bay hyphen extending from the east elevation. This original form is identical to the original form of three other dwellings located to the south and west along Bowers Beach Road [192 Bowers Beach Road (A-00008); 249 Bowers Beach Road (A-00002), and 264 Bowers Beach Road (A-00010)]. The exterior walls of the dwelling are primarily clad in asbestos shingles. In 2008, the dwelling is laid out in a window-door-window-window-door pattern. The dwelling is lit by a mix of one-over-one light, double-hung sash, vinyl replacement windows, metal-clad awning-sash windows, and wood-frame awning-sash windows. The dwelling retains its Chicago-style picture window, but it has been replaced with a vinyl type. The original entry situated in the center bay of the south (façade) elevation has been altered and now features a central gabled entry enclosed within a front-gable extension, the exterior walls of which are clad in asbestos shingles. The gabled roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. Other modifications include a shed-roof, concrete block addition extending from the north and south walls of the hyphen; and a concrete block garage addition extending from the east elevation of the hyphen. Flush, sliding wood doors provide interior access to the garage. A paneled wood door with four lights provides pedestrian access to the garage in the north elevation. The door is sheltered by a shed-roof hood covered with corrugated metal.

The property is minimally landscaped and includes a few mature trees in both the front and rear yards. An asphalt drive leads from Bowers Beach Road to the garage. A modern, vinyl picket fence forms the western property boundary.

Historical Narrative

The property is located on land owned by the family of the present-day owner, Jean Roberts since the late 1940s. Aerial photographs accessed via the Delaware DataMIL website indicate the dwelling was constructed between 1954 and 1961.

National Register Evaluation

The property at 239 Bowers Beach Road was evaluated as a Minimal Ranch dwelling as identified in the *Historic Context for the DuPont Highway, U.S. Route 113, Kent and Sussex Counties, Delaware* (John Milner Associates, Inc. 2005). Minimal Ranch dwellings are common mid-twentieth-century building types in the U.S. 113 APE. As noted in the context, the Minimal Ranch dwelling would not be considered individually eligible for listing in the National Register

unless it was an elaborate, architect-designed dwelling that retained all exterior details, including its fenestration and sash patterns, and lacked additions. The property does not retain its original form, exterior details, or materials necessary to deem it individually eligible for listing in the National Register. Although located along the north side of Bowers Beach Road amidst other residential strip development, the property has no potential to yield information on residential development practices; therefore, the property is not eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A. Based on the background research conducted for this project, the property does not appear to be associated with an individual of historic importance; therefore, the property is not eligible under Criterion B. With its additions, altered front porch, and replacement windows, the dwelling is an altered example of a common mid-twentieth-century form and is not a notable example of the architecture of its time; therefore, the dwelling is not eligible for National Register listing under Criterion C. The property does not appear to possess the potential to yield information on building practices or methods of construction; therefore, the property does not appear to be eligible for listing under Criterion D. Due to lack of significance, the property at 239 Bowers Beach Road is not eligible for listing in the National Register.

The property is one of approximately 16 properties located amidst former farmland that was subdivided for residential construction during the late 1940s to mid 1950s, and again in the 1970s. The majority of the residences along Bowers Beach Road, east of U.S. 113, were constructed ca. 1950 to present-day, with earlier examples that were moved to the small rectangular lots from other locations. These dates reflect a wide range of construction patterns, and thus, the development is not an early example of the common twentieth-century trend of subdividing lands located closed to major highways. Therefore, the strip development is not eligible under Criterion A. The strip development does not appear to be associated with persons of critical importance to the historic development of the area; therefore, the property is not eligible for listing under Criterion B. The strip development contains dwellings that were constructed during a variety of time periods and include a wide range of forms. The development lacks a cohesive identity, and thus, the grouping could not be considered eligible under Criterion C as a distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction. The development does not appear to possess the potential to yield information on twentieth-century land development practices; therefore, the development does not appear to be eligible for listing under Criterion D.

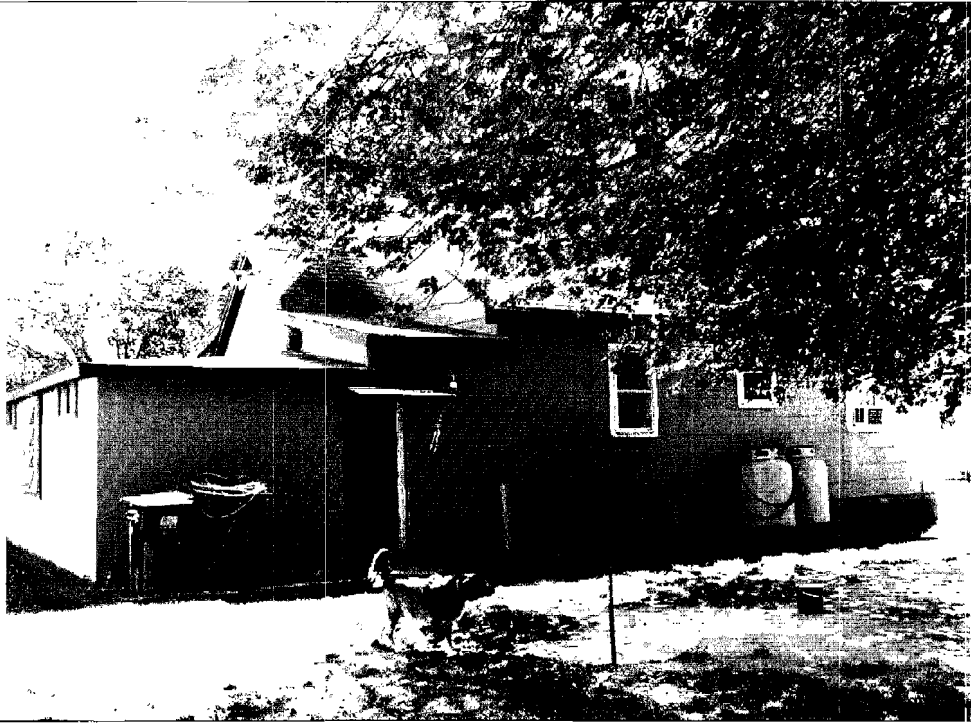


A-00003. Photograph 1: Overview of 239 Bowers Beach Road, looking northwest. Note the garage addition, which was constructed ca. 1960.



A-00003. Photograph 2: Dwelling, west and south elevations, view looking northeast. This side-gable dwelling is similar in form to the dwelling at 299 Bowers Beach Road and is clad in asbestos shingle siding.

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A-00003. Photograph 3: Dwelling, east and north elevations, looking south. Note the garage addition as well as the shed-roof addition to the hyphen.



DELAWARE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
15 THE GREEN, DOVER, DE 19901

CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION FORM

CRS # A-00003
SPO Map 12-13-18
Hundred South Murderkill
Quad Frederica
Other 8-00-12216-01-0901-000

1. HISTORIC NAME/FUNCTION: Dwelling, 239 Bowers Beach Road
2. ADDRESS/LOCATION: 239 Bowers Beach Road
3. TOWN/NEAREST TOWN: Little Heaven vicinity? ☒
4. MAIN TYPE OF RESOURCE: building ☒ structure ☐ site ☐ object ☐
 landscape ☐ district ☐
5. MAIN FUNCTION OF PROPERTY: Residential
6. PROJECT TITLE/ REASON FOR SURVEY (if applicable):
SR1, Little Heaven Grade Separated Intersection Improvements


7. ADDITIONAL FORMS USED:

#:	Form:	List property types:
1	CRS 2 Main Building Form	Dwelling
0	CRS 3 Secondary Building Form	N/A
0	CRS 4 Archaeological Site Form	N/A
0	CRS 5 Structure (Building-Like) Form	N/A
0	CRS 6 Structure (Land Feature) Form	N/A
0	CRS 7 Object Form	N/A
0	CRS 8 Landscape Elements Form	N/A
1	CRS 9 Map Form	N/A
0	CRS 14 Potential District Form	N/A

8. SURVEYOR INFORMATION:

Surveyor name: Catherine M. Dluzak/Architectural Historian

Principal Investigator name: Barbara Frederick/Sr. Architectural Historian

Principal Investigator signature: 

Organization: A.D. Marble & Company Date: 09/24/2008

9. OTHER NOTES OR OBSERVATIONS:

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The property includes a dwelling constructed *circa*-1955 on land owned by the Roberts family since the late 1940s. Mrs. Roberts indicated that this particular dwelling is inhabited by her son. Two dwellings to the east, 249 Bowers Beach Road (A-00002, Tax parcel 8-00-12216-01-0901-000) and 299 Bowers Beach Road (A-00001, Tax parcels 8-00-12216-01-1000-000 and 8-00-12216-01-1001-000), are also under the family's ownership.

10. STATE HISTORIC CONTEXT FRAMEWORK (check all appropriate boxes; refer to state management plan(s)):

a) Time period(s)

- ☐ Pre-European Contact
- ☐ Paleo-Indian
- ☐ Archaic
- ☐ Woodland I
- ☐ Woodland II

- ☐ 1600-1750∇ Contact Period (Native American)
- ☐ 1630-1730∇ Exploration and Frontier Settlement
- ☐ 1730-1770∇ Intensified and Durable Occupation
- ☐ 1770-1830∇ Early Industrialization
- ☐ 1830-1880∇ Industrialization and Early Urbanization
- ☐ 1880-1940∇ Urbanization and Early Suburbanization
- ☒ 1940-1960∇ Suburbanization and Early Ex-urbanization

b) Geographical zone

- ☐ Piedmont
- ☒ Upper Peninsula
- ☐ Lower Peninsula/Cypress Swamp
- ☐ Coastal
- ☐ Urban (City of Wilmington)

c) Historic period theme(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation and Communication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Settlement Patterns and Demographic Changes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trapping/Hunting | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture, Engineering and Decorative Arts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mining/Quarrying | <input type="checkbox"/> Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing/Oystering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retailing/Wholesaling | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Organizations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Occupational Organizations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Major Families, Individuals and Events |

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CRS-1



DELAWARE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
15 THE GREEN, DOVER, DE 19901

CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY
MAIN BUILDING FORM

CRS # A-00003

1. ADDRESS/LOCATION: 239 Bowers Beach Road
2. FUNCTION(S): Historic Dwelling current Dwelling
3. YEAR BUILT: 1955 CIRCA?: ☒ ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown
4. STYLE OR FLOOR PLAN: Minimal Ranch

5. INTEGRITY: Original site ☒ moved ☒

if moved, from where

N/A

other location's CRS #

N/A

year

N/A

list major alterations and additions with years (if known)

year

a. Entry addition

ca. 1960

b. Garage addition and additions to hyphen

ca. 1960

c. Replacement windows

ca. 2000

6. CURRENT CONDITION: excellent ☐ good ☒ fair ☐ poor ☐

7. DESCRIPTION: (Describe the resource as completely as possible. Use N/A for not applicable; leave no blanks.)

a. Overall shape: Rectilinear

Stories: One

Additions: (1) Gabled, enclosed entry porch clad in asbestos shingles; (2) 1-bay-wide by 3-bay-deep, shed-roof, concrete block garage addition extends from east elevation of hyphen; east elevation lit by a centrally located, four-light louvered-sash window flanked by two-light fixed-sash wood windows near the cornice; double-leaf, flush wood hinged doors in the south elevation; (3) Concrete block, shed-roof additions also extend from the north and south elevations of the hyphen.

b. Structural system (if known): Frame

c. Foundation: materials: Obscured by stucco cladding; concrete block on shed-roof addition
basement: full ☐ partial ☐ not visible ☒ no basement ☐

d. Exterior walls (original if visible & any subsequent coverings): Asbestos shingles and concrete block (additions)

e. Roof: shape: Side gable with centrally-located front gable

materials: Asphalt shingles

cornice: Shallow eaves

dormers: N/A

chimney: location(s): Ridge, interior, metal pipe

8. DESCRIPTION OF ELEVATIONS:

a. Facade: Direction: South

1) Bays Five (5)

2) Windows 3

Fenestration Irregular

type (1) Chicago-style vinyl; (1) paired 6/6 double-hung sash vinyl; (1) 8-light wood awning

trim Wood and vinyl

shutters N/A

Facade (cont'd)

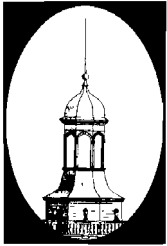
- 3) **Door(s)** 2 (1 core, 1 addition)
 location 2nd and 5th bays
 Type Vinyl storm (interior door not visible); flush wood hinged garage doors
 trim Wood
- 4) **Porch(es)** Enclosed, gabled entry clad in asbestos shingle and sheathed with asphalt shingles; a shed roof hood shelters door and is accessed by 2 concrete steps
- b. **Side: Direction: East**
- 1) **Bays** Four (4)
- 2) **Windows** 4 (1 enclosed porch; 3 garage addition)
 Fenestration Irregular
 type (1) 1/1 double-hung sash vinyl; (2) 2-light fixed wood; (1) 4-light louvered
 trim Wood
 shutters N/A
- 3) **Door(s)** 0
 location N/A
 type N/A
 trim N/A
- 4) **Porch(es)** N/A
- c. **Side: Direction: West**
- 1) **Bays** Two (2)
- 2) **Windows** 2
 Fenestration Regular
 type 1/1 double-hung sash wood with aluminum storms
 trim Wood
 shutters N/A
- 3) **Door(s)** 0
 location N/A
 type N/A
 trim N/A
- 4) **Porch(es)** N/A
- d. **Rear: Direction: North**
- 1) **Bays** Four (4)
- 2) **Windows** 3
 Fenestration Regular
 type 1/1 double-hung sash vinyl
 trim Vinyl
 Shutters N/A
- 3) **Door(s)** One (1)
 location Off center
 type Paneled wood with 4 lights
 trim Wood
- 4) **Porch(es)** Concrete pad sheltered by a shed-roof hood sheathed with corrugated metal

9. **INTERIOR:** Not accessible.

10. **LANDSCAPING:** Neatly landscaped with several mature trees.

11. **OTHER COMMENTS:** An asphalt drive leads from Bowers Beach Road to garage.

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CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY
MAP FORM

CRS # A-00003

1. ADDRESS/LOCATION: 239 Bowers Beach Road

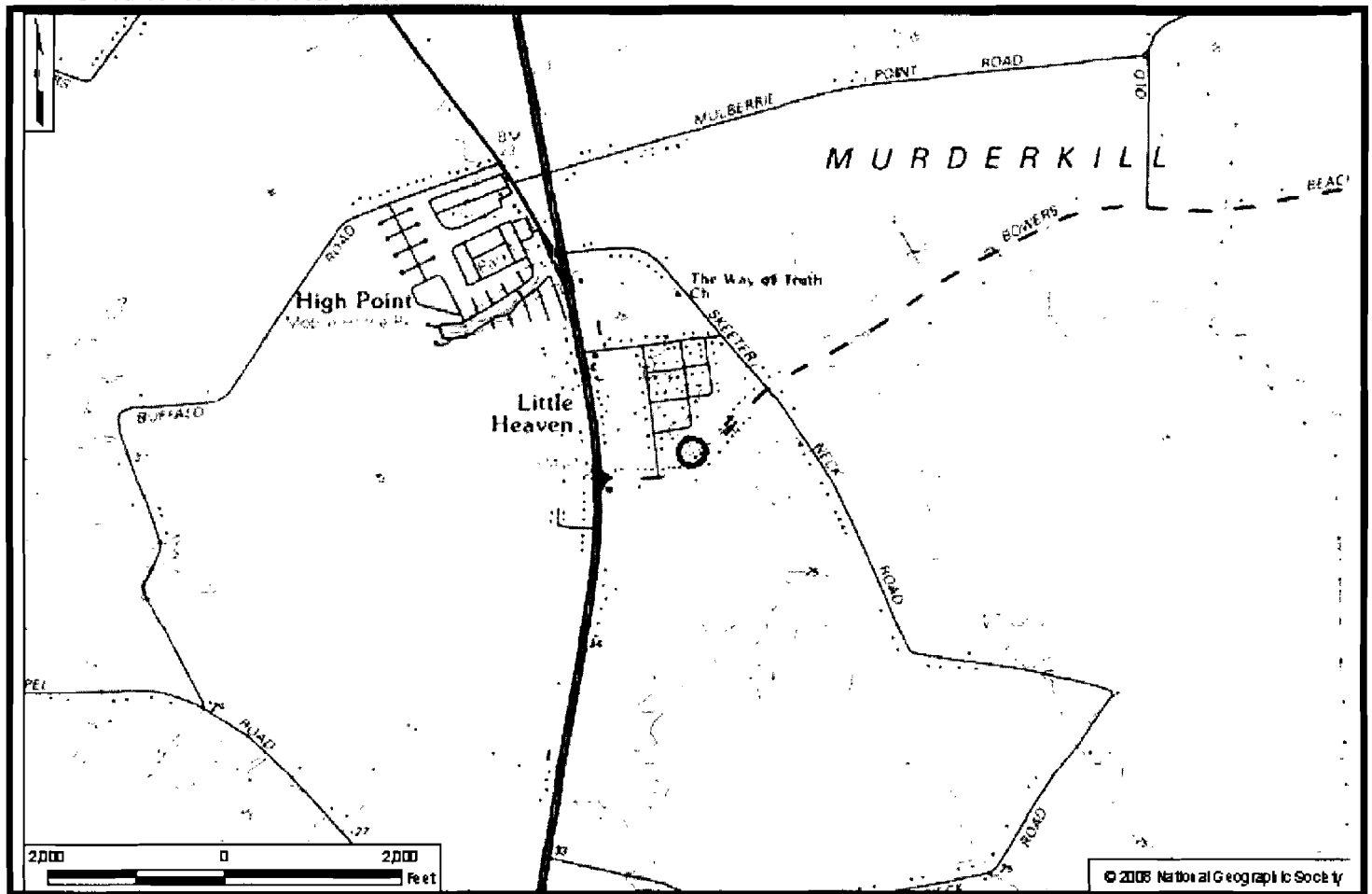
2. NOT FOR PUBLICATION ☐ reason: _____

3. LOCATION MAP:

Indicate position of resource in relation to geographical landmarks such as streams and crossroads.

(attach section of USGS quad map with location marked or draw location map)

INDICATE NORTH ON SKETCH



INDICATE NORTH ON PLAN

